

Book festivals
celebrate readers
and writers

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September/October 2014 ■ Montana - The Land of Creativity

Providing information to all Montanans through funding by the National Endowment for the Arts and the State of Montana



Nominations open for 2015 Governor's Arts Awards

Nomination opportunities for the 2015 Governor's Awards for the Arts opened Aug. 18. Information about how to submit a candidate is available on MAC's website, www.art.mt.gov.

The awards program is slated for early summer 2015. Nominations and all support materials must be sent to MAC by Dec. 15. The paperless process requires nominators to submit materials online and will be managed via email.

The Governor's Arts Awards program honors outstanding citizens and organizations in Montana whose significant achievements in the arts, or on behalf of the arts, benefit all Montanans. The Governor of the State of Montana presents the Governor's Arts Awards through the Montana Arts Council.

Anyone or any organization in Montana with commensurate accomplishments can be nominated for the Governor's Arts Awards. (Awards are not given posthumously.)

Online forms and support materials that were submitted on behalf of nominees endorsed during the 2010 awards cycle are available to nominators who wish to use them to update a nomination for the 2015 cycle. If a nominator would like to access past information, please contact Cinda Holt at the Montana Arts Council: cholt@mt.gov or 406-777-0090.



Mark your calendar! MAP Showcase and Sale celebrates Montana artists

The annual Montana Artrepreneur Program (MAP) Artists' Showcase and Sale is set for Saturday, Nov. 1, at the Colonial Red Lion Inn in Helena.

More than 60 MAP artists will exhibit and sell their unique artwork so plan to bring your wallet and your holiday shopping list!

Artists who are selected to exhibit and sell in this event are Montana artists who have completed or are currently participating in MAC's Montana Artrepreneur Program.

Tune in to MAC's website at art.mt.gov this fall for more details.

MAP artist guidelines

Application materials for the "Celebrate Montana Art" Showcase and Sale will be available online by Aug. 25. Watch for the announcement and link.

For more information, contact Cindy Kittredge, Folk Arts and Market Development Specialist, 406-468-4078 or ckittredge@mt.gov.

Jane Chu confirmed to head NEA

The Montana Arts Council is pleased to announce that on June 12, the United States Senate voted to confirm Jane Chu as the 11th chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. The White House made the official appointment and Chu assumed her duties on June 19.

"I'm deeply honored to receive the Senate's vote of confirmation, and I look forward to working in partnership with state and regional arts agencies to make the arts relevant and accessible to communities," she said.

Senior Deputy Chairman Joan Shigekawa has served as the agency's acting chairman and executive since Rocco Landesman left the NEA in December 2012.

Please join the conversation and offer your congratulations to Chu at #NEAJaneChu.



NEA Chairman Jane Chu

million people from all 50 states and countries throughout the world since its grand opening in September 2011.

She was a fund executive at the Kauffman Fund for Kansas City from 2004 to 2006, and vice president of external relations for Union Station Kansas City from 2002 to 2004. Previously, she was vice president of community investment for the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation from 1997 to 2002.

Chu also served as a trustee at William Jewell College and on the board of directors of the Ewing Marion Kauffman School and the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce.

Chu was born in Shawnee, OK, but was raised in Arkadelphia, AR, the daughter of Chinese immigrants. She studied music growing up, eventually receiving bachelor's degrees in piano performance and music education from Ouachita Baptist University and master's degrees in music and piano pedagogy from Southern Methodist University.

Additionally, Chu holds a master's degree in business administration from Rockhurst University and a PhD in philanthropic studies from Indiana University, as well as an honorary doctorate in music from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance.

About the new chairman

Since 2006, Chu served as the president and CEO of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in Kansas City, MO, overseeing a \$413 million campaign to build the center. As the performance home of the Kansas City Ballet, Kansas City Symphony, and Lyric Opera of Kansas City, the Kauffman Center has hosted more than one

Montana to revise state arts standards

By Emily Kohring
Director of Arts Education

The Montana Arts Council, in partnership with the Montana Office of Public Instruction, will lead the process of revising the Montana Standards for Arts in Montana's K-12 public schools, set to begin early in 2015. The arts standards were written in the 1990s and have never been revised.

The revision process will offer an opportunity to create new standards that are discipline-specific in dance, theatre, music, visual art and media arts, rather than the general standards currently in use that cover all disciplines with a broad sweep. These mirror the five disciplines now included in the newly-published National Core Arts Standards (www.nationalartsstandards.org).

**What's the big deal
about arts standards?**
Find out on page 6.

The National Core Arts Standards (NCAS) were spearheaded by a broad national coalition of organizations dedicated to arts education, with the goal to establish benchmarks for artistic literacy in each of the five disciplines, and to provide a unified, quality arts education for students in Pre-K through high school. Adoption of the NCAS is completely voluntary from state to state.

As Montana revises its state standards, the new national standards will be considered in developing the strongest possible standards for teaching and learning in the arts, while considering the particular needs of our state's public school population.

The arts standards revision process will also offer multiple opportunities for input and participation from educators, parents, business and community leaders and arts education advocates.

See State Standards on page 5

Ed Noonan: Stepping aside after 14 years of good work

By Kristi Niemeyer

Calm. Adventuresome. Creative. A master of engagement.

Accolades abound for Ed Noonan, the Myrna Loy Center's beloved executive director, who steps down in September after 14 years at the helm of the Helena performing arts center and film house.

He, with a valiant crew of volunteers and board members, is largely credited with bringing the theatre back from near death in 2000 by volunteering to serve as its executive director.

Noonan, who is also a playwright, author and poet, stepped on the Myrna stage on June 30 to tell his sto-



Ed Noonan (Photo by Eliza Wiley/courtesy of the Independent Record)

ry through poems, music and stories. "It was just a real warm night," he says of the farewell gathering. "I felt a lot of joy that I've had the opportunity to work here, to do all this good work."

And it's a considerable catalogue of good work, beginning with resurrecting the theatre, which had amassed \$100,000 in debt, couldn't meet payroll and dismissed its staff. It took two years, he recalls, to stabilize the Myrna Loy and rebuild its reputation with the community, artists and funders.

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